

RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

held electronically via Google Meet
and livestreamed from the Ernie Checkeris Boardroom
at the Centre for Education, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury
on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees: D. Dewar (Chair), A. Gibson, J. Hunda, J. Kosmerly, D. Morrison,
K. St. Jean, M. Stringer, Student Trustee Lafrance
Absent: B. Clement, L. Debassige
Officials: N. Blaseg – Director and Secretary of the Board
D. Bazinet - Superintendent of Business
B. Bourget, J. Noble, K. Wachnuk - Superintendents
N. Charette, H. Thirkill, C. Whitson
Others: D. Kitching, T. Hayes, C. McDonald, M. McKelvey

Chair Dewar advised that the meeting was being live-streamed and archived.
Roll call was completed to establish who was participating in the Google Meet Board meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 20-R106, J.Hunda/M.Stringer

That the agenda for the Regular Board meeting of November 17, 2020 be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: Absent
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: In-favour
Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

B. PRELIMINARY DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST NIL

C. PRESENTATION

Fred Yackman (Co-chair of Save A.B. Ellis Committee and Director of Rainbow Community District Non-Profit Corporation) provided trustees with a history of the former A.B. Ellis PS and their vision for the future of this building.

Trustees were provided with backup documents and had the opportunity to ask clarifying questions of the ten-minute presentation.

D. REPORT FROM THE IN-CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE BOARD

No meeting held. No report.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Previous Minutes

Motion: 20-R107, J.Hunda/J.Kosmerly

That the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 27, 2020 be approved.

Poll Vote

Bob Clement: Absent
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: Absent
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: In-favour
Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

2. 2020-2021 School Year Update

Director Blaseg provided a detailed update on the 2020-2021 school year, including a chronology of events since the October 27 Board Meeting. The presentation included information on Ministry memos, protocols for the safe use of lockers, remote learning during inclement weather, our close working relationship with Public Health Sudbury and Districts as well as an update of the positive COVID cases at Lasalle SS, Northeastern Elementary School and the YMCA daycare located in Markstay PS.

3. Tenders/Requests for Proposals NIL

4. Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees NIL

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Honorarium for Trustees 2020/2021

Superintendent Bazinet provided details about the Honorarium for Trustees spreadsheet.

2. Trustee Expenditures 2019/2020

Superintendent of Business Bazinet explained the details on the Trustee Expenses spreadsheet.

3. **Insurance Renewal**

Superintendent of Business Bazinet provided a report on the cost of insurance, referring to the documents included with the agenda.

Motion: 20-R108, D.Morrison/J.Kosmerly

That the 2021 Renewal of Insurance for liability, property, crime and fleet automobile with the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange for \$282,762.04 be approved.

Poll Vote

Bob Clement: Absent
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: In-favour
Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

4. **Budget Development Process**

Motion: 20-R109, J.Hunda/D.Morrison

That the 2021-22 Budget Development Process be approved.

Poll vote

Bob Clement: Absent
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: In-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: In-favour
Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

5. **Requests for Leave of Absence**

Motion: 20-R110, M.Stringer/K.St.Jean

That Bob Clement and Linda Debassige be granted leaves of absence from the November 17, 2020 Board meeting.

Poll Vote

Bob Clement: Absent
Linda Debassige: Absent
Doreen Dewar: In-favour
Anita Gibson: In-favour
Judy Hunda: In-favour
Judy Kosmerly: in-favour
Dena Morrison: In-favour
Kerrie St Jean: In-favour
Margaret Stringer: In-favour

– Carried

6. **Director's Remarks**

Director Blaseg reminded everyone that the flu shot is every bit as important as it always has been and encouraged everyone to get it. Secondly, Director reminded that it is imperative that we all reinforce Public Health messaging as it relates to all COVID interventions.

Director thanked all schools for holding Remembrance Day ceremonies and noted how remarkable it is that we are finding unique ways to acknowledge special dates and traditions. As the holiday season approaches, we will continue to encourage our staff /students /parents and community stakeholders to somehow reach out to those who are less fortunate. Today Director Blaseg advised schools that they could hold virtual fundraisers, with conditions, so they could carry on holiday traditions. We look forward to schools holding online or virtual events to celebrate awards, concerts and/or other special events. Director Blaseg is so proud of all staff and their collective efforts to make this year as normal as possible.

Director Blaseg thanked trustees for participating in virtual graduation/award ceremonies by sending recorded messages of congratulations.

Itinerary

October 28, 2020	Agenda Setting
October 29, 2020	Deputy Minister teleconference
October 30, 2020	Public Health (4 local Boards) Teleconference
November 3, 2020	Exec Council Safe Schools Meeting
November 4, 2020	Agenda Setting Minister of Education teleconference
November 5, 2020	Deputy Minister teleconference School Visit – Churchill P.S.
November 6, 2020	Public Health (4 local Boards) Teleconference Manitoulin Secondary School visit – Opening new wing
November 9, 2020	ETFO meeting Minister of Education teleconference
November 10, 2020	Exec Council United Way Meeting
November 11, 2020	Remembrance Day ceremony

Interviews (Finance)

- November 12, 2020 Deputy Minister Teleconference
School/Site Visits - Lasalle SS and Chelmsford VDCS
- November 13, 2020 Public Health (4 local Boards) Teleconference
S.O. meetings
- November 16, 2020 Agenda setting
Minister of Education Teleconference
S.O. meeting
- November 17, 2020 Exec Council
Board meeting

7. **Other Items**

OPSBA Director – NIL

Student Trustee – Student Trustee Lafrance provided trustees with an update on the recent work of the Student Senate Committee. She reported that the students are working on the end-of-year virtual conference with the topic being “*Equity*”. Student Senators are putting together a survey for students to complete to gather feedback about equity in Rainbow Schools.

8. **Trustees’ Remarks/Questions**

Trustee Gibson asked for clarification about electronic Board Meetings, whether the current meeting formats would continue for the remainder of the school year, including the upcoming Organizational Meeting of the Board. Director advised meetings would continue electronically as per Ministry of Education and that more information about the Organizational Board meeting would be provided at the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

Trustee Morrison commended staff for work being done when a positive COVID case is confirmed by Public Health in a Rainbow school. Trustee Morrison shared information around the Northeastern case, which was the first incident involving transportation. She commented on the confidentiality of Public Health.

9. **Chairperson’s Remarks**

Students and staff went paperless in support of World Paper Free Day on Friday, November 6th. This green initiative challenged schools to create 21st century paperless classrooms by avoiding the use of printers, photocopiers, hard copy reading materials, and paper-based assignments for the day.

Students and staff in Rainbow Schools walked in harmony wearing their favourite moccasins in celebration of Rock Your Mocs Day on Friday, November 13th. This is a global movement, now in its ninth year, celebrated annually on November 15th.

Before I draw your attention to some of the up-coming activities that will be taking place in and around our schools, I would like to point out that each and every activity, each and every month, occurs solely on the basis of the efforts of our RDSB staff. And while I am pleased to announce some of our Board-wide events, please know that each and every school is a hive of activities, too numerous to mention, but all aimed directly at student well-being and achievement.

So, to all administrators, educators and support staff, on behalf of the members of the Board, "Thank you!"

Circle your Calendars:

"Life Interrupted: A Pathway Toward Resilience and Growth" will air on Eastlink channel 10 or 610 on Tuesday, December 8th at 5 pm. Presented by the Rainbow District School Board's Mental Health Team, Life Interrupted supports parents/guardians as their children transition back to school whether learning in person or online.

Participants will explore "thought jars" and the many benefits of practising mindfulness, as well as gain strategies for talking and listening to children while navigating the potential grief and loss they may experience during a pandemic.

A friendly reminder that you can drop off gently used winter clothing items in support of The Winter Clothing Drive powered by Cooper Equipment Rentals at the Sudbury Women's Centre, Pregnancy Care Centre & Infant Food Bank and Better Beginnings, Better Futures.

As always, parents are reminded to use the school screening tool for COVID-19 as part of your morning routine. A link to the school screening tool is available on the Board's website.

Once again, this month I have chosen two quotes to share with you. They are about coping and they go hand in hand. The first is from author, producer Geraldine Soloy who said: "May your life be filled, as mine has been, with love and laughter; and remember, when things are rough all you need is ... Chocolate."

The second quote comes from an anonymous source. Quote: "Chocolate comes from cocoa, which is a tree. That makes it a plant... so chocolate is a salad."

Please refer to previous quote.

Thank you and stay safe.

G. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Reports from Officials and Staff

Equity and Inclusive Education Committee Minutes November 7, 2019 (official)

Environmental Education Committee Minutes November 20, 2019 (official)

2. **Non-Staff Communications**

H. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

First Nation Advisory Committee November 19, 2020 10:00 am
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting November 24, 2020 5:00 pm Boardroom
Parent Involvement Committee Meeting December 1, 2020 7:00 pm
Special Education Advisory Committee December 2, 2020 12:00 pm
Audit Committee Meeting December 7, 2020 3:00 pm
Student Senate Meeting December 7, 2020 5:00 pm
Board Meeting (organizational) December 8, 2020 5:00 pm Boardroom
Equity & Inclusion Education Committee February 11, 2021 4:00 pm

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: 20-R111, D.Morrison/K.St.Jean
That we now adjourn at 6:14 p.m. – **Carried.**

Official